



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MB Docket No. 22-117; RM-11923; DA-22-251; FRS 77504]

Television Broadcasting Services Great Falls, Montana

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission has before it a petition for rulemaking filed by Scripps Broadcasting Holdings LLC (Petitioner), the licensee of KRTV, channel 7, Great Falls, Montana. The Petitioner requests the substitution of channel 22 for channel 7 at Great Falls in the Table of Allotments.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] and reply comments on or before [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 45 L Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve counsel for the Petitioner as follows: Christina A. Burrow, Esq., Cooley LLP, 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004-2400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joyce Bernstein, Media Bureau, at (202) 418-1647 or Joyce.Bernstein@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In support, the Petitioner states that the Commission has recognized that VHF channels have certain characteristics that pose challenges for their use in providing digital television service, including propagation characteristics that allow undesired signals and noise to be receivable at relatively far distances. According to the Petitioner, it has received many complaints from viewers unable to receive a reliable signal on channel 7. The

Engineering Statement provided with the Petition confirms that the proposed channel 22 contour would continue to reach virtually all of the population within the Station's current service area and fully cover the city of Great Falls. An analysis using the Commission's *TVStudy* software tool indicates that KRTV's move from channel 7 to channel 22 is predicted to create a small area where 554 persons are predicted to lose service. The loss area, however, is partially overlapped by the noise limited contour of other CBS affiliated stations and reduces the number who are predicted to lose CBS network service to 255 persons. Taking these other stations into account, less than 500 persons would lose CBS service if KRTV moves to channel 22, which Petitioner argues is *de minimis*. We note that in its calculation of viewer loss, Scripps relies on the CBS network service provided by full power television station KXLF-TV, Butte, Montana, as well as three Scripps-owned translator stations that retransmit CBS network programming. While the translator stations are secondary and can be displaced, we believe given the rural nature of Montana and neighboring states it is unlikely that these stations would be displaced, and if they were, Scripps would easily be able to find displacement channels for them. In addition, the loss area is also partially overlapped by the noise limited contours of television stations KFBB-TV (ABC/FOX), Great Falls, Montana; KTVM (NBC), Butte, Montana; and KTVH (NBC) and KUHMTV (PBS), Helena, Montana.

This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, MB Docket No. 22-117; RM-11923; DA 22-251, adopted March 10, 2022, and released March 10, 2022. The full text of this document is available for download at <https://www.fcc.gov/edocs>. To request materials in accessible formats (braille, large print, computer diskettes, or audio recordings), please send an email to FCC504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Government Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (VOICE), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

This document does not contain information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. In addition, therefore, it does not contain any proposed information collection burden "for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees,"

pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-198, *see* 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4). Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601-612, do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited from the time a notice of proposed rulemaking is issued to the time the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, *see* 47 CFR 1.1208. There are, however, exceptions to this prohibition, which can be found in § 1.1204(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.1204(a). *See* §§ 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's rules for information regarding the proper filing procedures for comments, 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Television.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

Thomas Horan,
Chief of Staff,
Media Bureau.

Proposed Rule

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR part 73 as follows:

PART 73 - - RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 155, 301, 303, 307, 309, 310, 334, 336, 339.

2. In § 73.622(j), amend the Table of Allotments under Montana by revising the entry for Great Falls to read as follows:

§ 73.622 Digital television table of allotments.

(j) ***

Community	Channel No.

MONTANA	

Great Falls	8, 17, *21, 22, 26

[FR Doc. 2022-05931 Filed: 3/21/2022 8:45 am; Publication Date: 3/22/2022]